Amendments to the Claims

Please replace the previously pending claims with the following claim listing.

1. (Currently amended) A method of detecting or monitoring lupus in a subject, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting an SFRP1 expression profile ~~of at least one gene~~ in a ~~biological~~ kidney sample of a subject; ~~and~~

comparing said SFRP1 expression profile to a reference SFRP1 expression profile ~~of said at least one gene~~; and

using said comparison to detect or monitor ~~an autoimmune disease~~ lupus in said subject, wherein said ~~at least one gene is differentially expressed in pre-symptomatic lupus-affected or predisposed tissues as compared to disease-free tissues~~ subject is a mouse or human.

2-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~2~~1, wherein said subject is a human.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~2~~1, wherein said expression profile and said reference expression profile are determined by RT-PCR or immunoassays.

9-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A method comprising: contacting lupus-affected or lupus-predisposed mouse kidney cells with an agent ~~with lupus-affected or lupus-predisposed cells~~; and comparing expression ~~profiles or protein activities~~ of SFRP1 ~~at least one gene~~ in said mouse kidney cells before and after said contacting to determine if said agent modulates SFRP1 expression ~~or protein activity of said at least one gene, wherein said at least one gene is differentially expressed in lupus-affected or lupus-predisposed cells as compared to disease-free cells~~.

20. (Currently amended) A method comprising: administering an agent to a lupus-affected or lupus-predisposed ~~subject~~ mouse; and comparing expression ~~profiles or protein activities~~ of ~~at least one gene~~ SFRP1 in ~~biological~~ kidney samples of the ~~subject~~ mouse before and after said

administering to determine if said agent modulates expression ~~or protein activity~~ of SFRP1 in the mouse ~~subject, wherein said at least one gene is differentially expressed in lupus affected or lupus predisposed kidney tissues as compared to disease free kidney tissues~~.